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Ohio County High School is state runner-up in *We the People* competition — Knowledge of U.S. Constitution earns students recognition —

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 13, 2006 — Ohio County High School in Hartford took the runner-up position for the second year in a row at the *We the People ... The Citizen and the Constitution* state competition in Frankfort on Feb. 20. The civic education competition, which took place at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza in Frankfort, hosted five teams that had advanced from the district level — Hazard High School, Highlands High School in Ft. Thomas, Lexington Catholic High School, Ohio County High School in Hartford and Phelps High School. Highlands High School was named the winner and will advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C., April 28-May 2.

Randy Brown, who teaches the *We the People* program at Ohio County High, was on hand for his team's performance. The team members are Erin Adams, Jacob Baxley, Kaitlin Black, Heather Cardwell, Cody Chinn, Alexis Coleman, Lindsey Embry, Kelsey Fleener, Lindsey Foremen, Olivia Gardner, Kara Gilbert, Lauren Goff, Allison Jordan, Kirsten McDaniel, Cody Mellott, Ben Millay, Alissa Minton, Natasha Mulholland, Sarai Phelps, Kasey Porter, Kerstin Renfrow, Crystal Rowe, Jessica Sapp, Collin St. Clair, Miranda Stout, Bryan Taylor and Heather Walsh.

Secretary of State Trey Grayson presented certificates of achievement to the competitors and praised their efforts at the awards banquet which took place after the competition.

"The *We the People* curriculum helps our young people develop concepts and attitudes that foster responsible citizenship," said Franklin County Family Court Judge O. Reed Rhorer who was also present to congratulate the participants.

The Kentucky Court of Justice and the Center for Civic Education in California are co-sponsors of the *We the People ... The Citizen and the Constitution* program. This nationally acclaimed civic education program for high school students was created by the Center for Civic Education to promote the history and philosophy of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students demonstrate their knowledge by competing in a mock congressional hearing. The exercise requires them to use their understanding of constitutional principles to defend positions on

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historical and contemporary issues. An entire class must compete, with teams of three to five students making a presentation on each of the program's six units. Students compete before a panel of judges who independently score each unit's performance. The high school with the highest overall score on all six units is declared the winner.

We the People is one of the many youth-related programs offered through the Division of Law Related Education at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in Frankfort. The AOC is the operational arm of the Kentucky Court of Justice and supports the activities of more than 3,400 court system employees, including the elected offices of justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The AOC also executes the Judicial Branch budget.

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